

Tribal Liaison Annual Status Report FY 2013

PROJECT RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Agency Pearl for FY 2013:

Border Trash Project in coordination with the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON)

The collection and disposal of waste in remote areas along Arizona's 370-mile border with Mexico poses difficult challenges. An estimated more than 2,000 tons of trash is discarded annually in Arizona's borderlands. A variety of federal and state government entities, Native American tribes and private landowners are affected by the problem, and addressing it requires extensive coordination. The environmental impact caused by illegal immigration, and the trash left behind, is increasingly being found in areas that are more fragile and remote.

ADEQ has been working collaboratively with TON Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) since 2010 in regards to the Arizona Border Trash Web site and the cleanup of inputted data. Both ADEQ and TON SWMP received separate grant funding from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and previously, the U.S. EPA. The federal agencies asked TON to work with ADEQ to document their cleanup data on the Arizona Border Trash Web site. ADEQ and TON have been working collaboratively since 2010 and continue to have a good working relationship. TON has documented their cleanup data related to over 300 cleanups going back to 2010. ADEQ has been in frequent contact with them regarding clarification on the data sets that are submitted, and TON has contacted ADEQ to correct some data that had been submitted and to clarify methodology for collecting the data. Recently, TON requested that a change be made to the data they had submitted under the heading "Event Name" in all of their forms, and requested a change to include the respective "District Name", to help them in reporting and tracking; ADEQ accommodated the request.

TON and ADEQ are also members of the Tucson Borderlands Management Task Force (BMTF) and participate in the meetings six times a year. ADEQ hosted a workshop for Tucson BMTF members in August 2012 to review the Arizona Border Trash Web site; several TON members attended and supported ADEQ during this workshop.

Earlier this year, ADEQ also invited TON to come to ADEQ's Southern Regional Office to conduct user acceptance testing of enhancements to the Arizona Border Trash Web site on two occasions, to help identify any issues that might exist, and to provide an opportunity for TON to familiarize themselves with the Web site. TON has complimented ADEQ on the Web site, tools and resources available. TON helped identify a glitch in the Arizona Border Trash Web site, which has been remedied by ADEQ.

Furthermore, ADEQ receives requests from media on occasion, who request to speak with groups who conduct cleanups, and on occasion, to visit an area where there is border trash. ADEQ notifies TON and/or refers media to them as a possible contact.

In February 2012, ADEQ gave a presentation to the Center for Immigration Studies from Washington, D.C. ADEQ contacted TON about the possibility of providing a tour of TON lands to show the effects of border trash there, and TON arranged a tour for the group.

In November 2012, ADEQ was invited to present on a panel about border trash at the "Arizona Recycles: Making a World of Difference" conference in Glendale. ADEQ invited TON, U.S. BLM and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to participate on the panel. TON discussed their year-round trash collection program for border trash, and unique challenges and findings.

Other noteworthy highlights from FY 2013

E-Waste event in Ganado

- July 28, 2012
- Partners: ADEQ, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency and Navajo Nation Solid Waste Management Program.
- 42,565 pounds of e-waste were collected from the school district and 53 motorists.

E-Waste event in Show Low

- August 25, 2012
- ADEQ and the White Mountain Apache Tribe partnered with other private and public entities for the "fourth annual" e-waste recycling event in Show Low.
- 56,171 pounds of material were collected from 336 motorists.

E-Waste event on the Hopi Reservation

- September 8, 2012
- Partners: ADEQ, Hopi Environmental Protection Office and E-Waste Harvesters
- 34,773 pounds of e-waste were collected.

E-Waste events in Kayenta and Tuba City

- October 27, 2012
- Partners: ADEQ, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency and Navajo Nation Solid Waste Management Program
- In Kayenta, 53,400 pounds of material were collected from the school district and approximately 52 motorists. In Tuba City, 14,380 pounds were collected.

State Implementation Plan training

- December 5, 2012
- ADEQ was a guest lecturer at the American Indian Air Quality Training Program sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University.

- ADEQ presented on “How states and counties develop and implement air programs and why it matters to tribes (the SIP process and its components)”

E-Waste event in Payson

- April 27, 2013
- ADEQ and the Tonto Apache Tribe partnered with other local governments.
- 23,000 pounds of e-waste were collected from 166 motorists.

Outreach-related events

- Per suggestion from the Navajo Nation EPA, ADEQ sponsored a three-hour hazardous waste and bio-hazardous medical waste workshop in the community of Chinle, on June 6, 2013. Fifty people attended.
- On June 11, 2013 ADEQ representatives gave water and air quality monitoring presentations and demonstrations to Canyon Day Junior High School Discovery Camp Students (Fort Apache Indian Reservation). Approximately 35 students were in attendance.

For questions or more information, please contact:

Ian Bingham, Ombudsman and Tribal Liaison
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Phone: 602-771-4322
Fax: 602-771-2251
Email: ldb@azdeq.gov